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ABSTRACT

This critical annotated bibliography of books on Greece is approached from a visitor's rather than a Greek's point of view. As it is very difficult to obtain books about modern Greece, in English, by Greeks, it has been necessary to rely mainly upon the impressions of non-Greeks, usually Englishmen or Americans, who have lived and traveled in that country. The thirty-five book citations are dated from 1951 to 1967 and are categorized into sections on Travel, The Past, and The Present (with sections on History and Literature). Each annotation is approximately 50 words in length. Filmstrips, slides, and films available for rent or purchase are listed. Most of the books reviewed in the bibliography are easily available in public libraries. (OPH)

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A CRITICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MATERIALS ON GREECE

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Rosemary Chapman

July, 1969.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page No.

I — BOOKS

Introduction 1

Travel 3

The Past 7

The Present 10

History 10

Literature 11

Sources of Books in the Multi-Media Package on Greece 16

II -- AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

Filmstrips 17

Slides 18

Films 20

Sources of Audio-Visual Materials in the Multi-Media Package on Greece 22

A CRITICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BOOKS ON GREECE

INTRODUCTION

It has been very difficult to obtain books about modern Greece, in English, by Greeks. It has thus been necessary to rely mainly upon the impressions of non-Greeks, usually Englishmen or Americans, who have lived and travelled in Greece.

Greece has been the source of many values and traditions of Western civilization. The myths of ancient Greece have since provided inspirations for Western literature, art and music. The experiment in democracy in ancient Athens and the unexcelled flowering of intellectual life have continued to astound the Western world even to the present day. It is understandable then, that books about modern Greece must contend with ancient Greece. Writers want to show how modern Greece is a product of the past, or else how it is not a product of the past. In any case, those who write about Greece are puzzled and fascinated by Greece and the Greeks.

Novelists use Greece as a setting for exotic happenings. Anthropologists look for the roots of Western civilization among remote tribes of Greece. Archaeologists dig in the hope of finding further clues about the past. And travellers interested in all these aspects of Greece, write with an enthusiasm that intoxicates even those who have never set foot in Greece.

The fact remains, however, that with few exceptions, this bibliography gives a visitor's rather than a Greek's point of view. Thus, a less than whole picture of Greece is presented although many of the authors

have lived in Greece for many years and their opinions are as informed and valid as a foreigner's can be.

Most of the books reviewed in this bibliography are easily available in public libraries.

TRAVEL

Rainbow in the Rock: The People of Rural Greece by Irwin T. Sanders

Symbolically the rainbow is the Greek people and the rock, the land in which they live. This book is one of the most thorough books on Greece. Although it concentrates on rural Greece, the other areas are not neglected. The author deals with such aspects as livelihood, courtship and marriage, superstitions and the impact of modernization on the villages of Greece.

(Sanders, I. T. Rainbow in the Rock: The People of Rural Greece. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1962.)

Roumeli: Travels in Northern Greece by Patrick Leigh Fermor

This book, like the preceding one, is more than a travel book. The author, is a great Grecophile. He knows Greece and Greek history well. Here he introduces the reader to the primitive Sarakatsan nomads whose way of life has barely changed in thousands of years and to remote villages and monasteries. He also informs the reader about every pertinent aspect of Greek history. The book is filled with the many memorable characters he meets on his travels. It is a thoroughly worthwhile book.

(Fermor, P. L. Roumeli: Travels in Northern Greece. London: John Murray, 1966.)

Passport to Greece by Leslie Finer

This book is an excellent introduction to Greece for the tourist. The first four chapters deal with Greek society — politics, mores, superstitions, etc. The most interesting aspect of this section of the book is the continuity which the author points out between ancient and

modern Greece. The rest of the book is devoted to tips about what to see, eat, drink, etc. in Greece. The entire book makes the reader want to catch the next plane to Greece.

The book is interestingly illustrated by one of the better-known Greek artists, Spiros Vassiliou.

(Finer, L. Passport to Greece. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1964.)

Greece by Prejudice by Daphne Athas

The author, the daughter of a Greek-American, went to Greece for the first time in 1958 and visited her father's simple peasant village. This book is a record of her experiences at that time. She spent some time in Athens and other parts of Greece, but the most intriguing and unusual parts of the book deal with the village life and the author's involvement with her newly discovered relatives and their friends. While she is there, her father's brother is killed in a tornado. She is thus a witness to a village funeral; shortly afterwards, Easter, the most important religious festival in Greece, comes. The description of both these rites is very moving. The author, an educated and sophisticated person, has ambivalent feelings about them — she is drawn in and repelled at the same time. The subjectivity and introspection of the book communicates to the reader a sense of reality and vitality of modern Greece.

(Athas, Daphne. Greece by Prejudice. Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1963.)

The Flight of Ikaros by Kevin Andrews

Kevin Andrews spent four and a half years travelling alone through Greece, usually on foot. He was there during the second part of the civil war and after (1947-1951). Thus the horrors of brother against brother,

and village against village form the background of the book. The author knows and understands Greeks; he had many close friendships with very simple people; in fact, he was godfather for one family.

The book gives the reader an insight into many social customs and attitudes of Greeks. The author has not been taken in by the "beauty of poverty," nevertheless, he shows clearly the dignity of these people despite their difficult way of life.

(Andrews, K. The Flight of Ikaros. London: Weidenfeld and Nicholson, 1959.)

Athenian Adventure by C. P. Lee

This book is definitely a travel book. The author lived in Greece for a year. Despite the title, the author travelled to other parts of Greece besides Athens. He discusses language, love, politics, food, religion and most of all, the people he meets. Nevertheless, it is a fairly superficial book. As the author himself admits, he never really came to understand the Greeks.

He is less enthusiastic than Henry Miller about embracing the simplicity of poverty (see Colossus of Maroussi in the Multi-Media Package), yet he is taken in a little by it.

(Lee, C. P. Athenian Adventure. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1957.)

Good-bye to Ithaca by Louis Golding

The author of this book gives his discovery of Greece the format of the Odyssey so that he becomes a modern day Odysseus retracing his master's steps. Although it is a somewhat artificial way of organizing his book and gives the reader a picture of what is left of ancient Greece rather than a picture of modern Greece, it is reasonably interesting.

(Golding, L. Good-bye to Ithaca. London: Hutchinson and Co., 1953.)

Bitter Lemons by Lawrence Durrell

Cyprus is an independent country, however, a large proportion of the island's inhabitants are Greek; the other national group is Turkish. Periodically the desire for union with Greece on the part of Greek Cypriots explodes. Of course, the politicians often manipulate these explosions for their own purposes. In any case, no study of present day Greece is complete without a consideration of the Cyprus question.

Lawrence Durrell has spent many years in Greece and lived on Cyprus during the troubled years of 1953-1956. This is a record of those years. It is a description of the author's life on Cyprus, the life of the village in which he lived and of the villagers. Although the book transcends the political questions, reading it is an excellent way to appreciate and understand these questions.

(Durrell, L. Bitter Lemons. London: Faber and Faber, 1957.)

THE PAST

The Greek Experience by C. M. Bowra

C. M. Bowra, the famous classical scholar has written a classic on Greek culture in an admirable attempt to analyse the sources of ancient Greek culture, a culture which has been the model for the West ever since. He analyses the Greek attitudes and outlook on government, politics and religion, and their unique capacity for experimentation. The book requires an interest, but is well worth the effort involved in reading it.

(Bowra, C. M. The Greek Experience. New York: World Publishing Co., 1957.)

The Greeks by H. D. F. Kitto

The author, another Greek scholar, presents more of a history of ancient Greece than an analysis of the culture although there is a certain amount of this too.

The style is conversational and highly amusing. The author frequently makes barbed comments about modern society in comparison with ancient Greek society.

The book is both informative and entertaining.

(Kitto, H. D. F. The Greeks. Harmondsmith, Middlesex: Penguin, 1951.)

Greek Gods and Heroes by Robert Graves

Robert Graves, also a famous classicist, retells in this little book, some of the famous myths of ancient Greece. The myths of any culture provide a key to the values of that culture and this is certainly true of Greek mythology. A book such as this is a necessity for anyone wishing to understand ancient Greece.

(Graves, R. Greek Gods and Heroes. New York: Dell, 1965.)

Poems from the Greek Anthology translated by Kenneth Rexroth

In this book, delightful translations of many poems of ancient Greece are presented with an attractive, illustrated format. There are a few lyric peoms translated from Latin as well. Rexroth, himself a poet, renders these pieces into modern English in a style that only a poet could accomplish. The themes are mostly love and death. The following poem is typical:

"This is all the life there is.
It is good enough for me.
Worry won't make another,
Or make this one last longer.
The flesh of man wastes in time.
To-day there's wine and dancing.
To-day there's flowers and women.
We might as well enjoy them.
Tomorrow — nobody knows."

(Palladas)

(Rexroth, K. Poems from the Greek Anthology. Ann Arbor, Michigan: Ann Arbor Paperbacks, 1962.)

Eternal Greece by Rex Warren (text) and Martin Hurlimann (photography)

The subject of this book is the art and architecture of ancient Greece, beautifully photographed (there are 90 photographs altogether). The text gives the writers' reactions to these monuments and he quotes extensively from what other travellers have written — both ancient and modern — about the art and society of ancient Greece.

The book is attractive, interesting and informative.

(Warren, R., & Hurlimann, M. Eternal Greece. London: Thames and Hudson, 1953.)

Greece in Colour by C. Kerenyi (text) and R. G. Hoegler (photography)

The photographs in this book are beautifully reproduced and there are a good number of them. The people of modern Greece are imposed

on the background of the ancient world. This method makes for a very interesting effect.

Except for the description of the photographs, the text is not very informative or interesting. It deals almost entirely with how travellers to Greece, both ancient and modern, have reacted to the "light" of Greece. This aspect of Greece is certainly a unique quality; it is mentioned in passing by most visitors to Greece. However, it is doubtful if it merits a book. Nevertheless, the book is worth looking at for the photographs.

(Kerenyi, C., & Hoegler, R. G. Greece in Color. London: Thames and Hudson, 1966.)

THE PRESENT

History

Greece by Mimica Cranaki

This book is intended as a preparatory book for tourists. It deals not only with sites to visit but also with Greek history. It is a short book and a good introduction to Greece, both past and present. The author's enthusiasm for her country is contagious.

There are many reproductions in black and white.

(Cranaki, Mimica. Greece. London: Studio Vista, 1959.)

Greece: The Struggle for Freedom by Stephanos Zotos

Although this is a recent book the military junta which now rules Greece is not considered; the book deals primarily with the years 1940-1949. In these years, Greeks were continually at war — first with the Italian Fascists and then with the Nazis. After the Germans were defeated and the rest of Europe was being reconstructed, Greece became strife-ridden again with civil war; the antagonists were the Communists and the Monarchists.

The author, a Greek, participated as a soldier, interpreter and journalist in these struggles. Thus he adds interesting personal touches to what is essentially a documentation of this tragic period in Greek history.

It is a very interesting and compelling book.

(Zotos, S. Greece: The Struggle for Freedom. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1967.)

The Death of a Democracy: Greece and the American Conscience by Stephen Rousseas

This up-to-date book deals from one point of view with the most recent change in Greek politics, the coup which led to the present military junta governing Greece. The author shows how American foreign policy helped to kill the tentative democracy developing in Greece since 1949, because, in his opinion, the United States seems to prefer to deal with right-wing dictatorships rather than with socialist democracies. Of course, the real dislike of democracy on the part of the king and many other powerful politicians contributed to the death of democracy in Greece.

This is an enlightening position piece.

(Rousseas, S. The Death of a Democracy: Greece and the American Conscience. New York: Grove Press, 1967.)

Literature

Six Poets of Modern Greece translated by E. Keeley and P. Sherrard

Many modern Greek poets have achieved international recognition such as Cavafy and Seferis. This volume contains a good selection of poems by these two poets as well as selections from less well-known Greek poets — Sikelianos, Antoniou, Elytis, and Gatsos.

The translations seem to be good and the introduction, by the translators, is informative.

(Keeley, E., & Sherrard, P. Six Poets of Modern Greece. London: Thames and Hudson, 1960.)

Modern Greek Folktales translated by R. M. Dawkins

The author of this collection has made a comprehensive effort to choose folktales from most parts of Greece and folktales which have not

been previously translated. Like myths, folktales are a good way to understand the values of a people. It is interesting to note the similarities between these folktales and ancient Greek myths.

There is a knowledgeable introduction to each folktale in which the author places it in its relation to similar tales in the rest of Europe and the Near East.

(Dawkins, R. M. Modern Greek Folktales. London: Oxford University Press, 1953.)

The Sun of Death by Pandelis Prevelakis

In 1962, this novel was designated as the selection of the year of the International Peace Library. It is a moving and beautiful book. The eternal values of life are reaffirmed in a little war-torn village of Greece. The main character, an orphan, is taken from town life to his aunt's village. The aunt is an illiterate peasant woman who has a fantastic joie de vivre. She affirms life in the face of death. She sees God in every animal and every flower. However, she is only one of many singular inhabitants of the village.

The plot, which is subordinate to the theme, concerns a crime of honor which hangs over the head of the protagonist.

(Prevelakis, Pandelis. The Sun of Death. London: John Murray, 1965.)

Christ Recrucified by Nikos Kazantzakis

Kazantzakis is the best known Greek novelist. His works have been translated into many languages. Nevertheless, his books are not readily available in many libraries.

Christ Recrucified is a tale of village life and therefore, quite useful for an understanding of rural Greece. The plot concerns the re-enactment of the Crucifixion, a yearly event in this village.

Kazantzakis was severely criticized for his unorthodox theology and in this book he expounds many of his beliefs, both about Christianity and about humanity.

(Kazantzakis, N. Christ Recrucified. Oxford: Bruno Cassirer, 1954.)

The Last Temptation of Christ by Nikos Kazantzakis

In this novel, Kazantzakis portrays Christ as a normal human being who resists the desires of an ordinary human being in order to fulfill his destiny as the Son of God. The author manages to make Christ a recognizable human being almost torn apart by the conflict of the human and the divine. The characters of the Bible such as Mary, the mother of Christ, Peter and Mary Magdalene come alive, as they never have, in their involvement with Christ.

The questionable assumption is that denial of the ordinary human desires is the example to follow. The struggle of Christ, which many may find typically Greek and unnecessary, is between the flesh and the spirit.

(Kazantzakis, N. The Last Temptation of Christ. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1960.)

The Dark Labyrinth by Lawrence Durrell

This novel mostly involves a group of English people on a cruise to Greece, some of whom are caught in a labyrinth because of a landslide. The author deals with the reasons why the characters come to Greece and how they react to being trapped. There is also a Greek archaeologist who originally discovered and rebuilt the labyrinth. His place in the novel

is to present the contrast between Greeks and Anglo-Saxons. This is a common motif in many novels by Anglo-Saxons who find the Greek temperment extremely attractive but unattainable for themselves or their inhibited Anglo-Saxon characters.

Although the book does not reveal much about Greece or Greeks, it is quite interesting in its own right and as a suggestion of what Durrell later accomplished in his Alexandrian Quartet.

(Durrell, L. The Dark Labyrinth. London: Faber and Faber, 1961.)

Ring the Judas Bell by James Forman

Although this is a children's book and may be of interest mainly to teachers who wish to read it to their classes, it is also an exciting story based on historical fact. During the civil war in Greece, many Greek children were kidnapped by the Andarte (Greek Communist guerillas) and taken to Albania. The main characters of this book, Nicholos and his sister Angela, are among the children of their village who are kidnapped. They are children of the village priest. Nicholos idealizes his father and Angela rebels. The plot is involving but the author also presents the basic conflict of peace and violence.

(Forman, J. Ring the Judas Bell. New York: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 1960.)

Enemy and Brother by Dorothy Salisbury Davies

The author presents the inhibited Anglo-Saxon (in this case an American) influenced by a vital Greek. The plot is a mystery cum spy story although the greatest element is character development and the development of the relationship between the two main protagonists. It

is a gripping novel and gives a clear picture of the chaos and inflammatory situation at the time of the civil war.

(Salisbury, Dorothy D. Enemy and Brother. New York: Charles Scribner and Sons, 1966.)

The Magus by John Fowles

Nicholas and Alison are two ordinary young people in London in the fifties who begin an ordinary affair. But the predictable format quickly changes and becomes a most unusual novel of suspense. The setting of most of the novel is on a remote island in Greece where Nicholas accepts a job teaching school. The other main character, Mr. Conchis, who is part Greek, exerts a mysterious, lasting influence on the lives of Nicholas and Alison.

(Fowles, J. The Magus. London: Jonathan Cape, 1966.)

Vanderlyn's Kingdom by J. I. M. Stewart

J. I. M. Stewart is a don at Oxford and writes mysteries under the pseudonym of Michael Innes. This novel combines the two sides of his personality. The crux of the novel is the plan of a wealthy, intelligent American to set up a kingdom of the arts on an island in Greece. The failure of his kingdom constitutes the plot.

Like The Magus, and some other novels reviewed here, the setting, Greece, is used to provide a faraway exotic effect. One learns little about Greece.

SOURCES OF BOOKS IN THE MULTI-MEDIA PACKAGE ON GREECE[1]

Miller, H. The Colossus of Maroussi. New York: New Directions, 1958.

Kanelli, Sheelagh. Earth and water. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1965.

Stewart, Mary. My brother Michael. Greenwich, Connecticut: Fawcett Crest, 1968.

Kazantzakis, N. Zorba the Greek. New York: Ballantine Books, 1953.

Renault, Mary. The king must die. Toronto: The New American Library, 1967.

Chamoux, F. Ancient Greek sculpture from the museums of Athens. New York and Toronto: The New American Library, 1968.

Durrell, L. My family and other animals. Middlesex, England: Penguin, 1959.

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1 The Greek magazine was obtained from a Greek variety store near the corner of Pape and Danforth.

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS ON GREECE, AVAILABLE FOR RENT OR PURCHASE IN AND AROUND TORONTO

Filmstrips

I -- Encyclopaedia Britannica Publications Ltd.,
151 Bloor Street West, Toronto 181, Ontario.

* (1) Greek Children -- black and white -- $3.00

One of a series on "Children of Many Lands," intended for primary and intermediate grades, but also good for older age groups.

(2) Villages in Greece -- colour -- $6.00

One of a series on Mediterranean Europe, illustrating geographic and economic conditions.

II -- Carman Educational Associates Ltd.,
Pine Grove, Ontario.

(1) On Mediterranean Shores (South Greece) -- black and white -- $4.00

(2) Greece: The Country and Its People

* Land of Myth

The Golden Age

Spread of Greek Culture

* Modern Greece

This is an excellent set in "The Nations of Today" series, comprising four filmstrips in colour, two records and teaching guides. Each filmstrip $7.00; each record $4.00 or $35.00 for the set.

This list of filmstrips is by no means complete. The above distributors have other filmstrips available and there are other distributors in the Toronto area, such as McGraw-Hill, Educational Film Distributors, Sovereign Film Distributors, Teaching Aids Department at the Toronto Board of Education (all material from the Teaching Aids Department is available on loan free of charge). Each of the distributors mentioned above have a number of filmstrips on Classical Greece, but these have not been mentioned here since the selection has been made in favour of contemporary filmstrips.

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* This filmstrip is included in the Multi-Media Package.

Slides

The Royal Ontario Museum is in the process of assembling sets of coloured slides, so that a selection should become available for purchase in the future. At present, the Greek and Roman Department have one set of twelve colour slides on Classical Greece.

The Audio-Visual Department of the Ontario Art Gallery has a wide selection of slides available for loan only.

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF GREEK FILMS AVAILABLE FOR RENT OR PURCHASE IN THE TORONTO AREA

A major problem in compiling this bibliography has been the limited choice of Greek feature films available for rent in the Toronto area and, in fact, the five mentioned below appear to be the extent of the selection at present available. Another difficulty has been that it is impossible to preview feature films; Zorba the Greek has been recommended on the basis of a previous personal viewing. The other four films have been included on the basis of a written synopsis or a verbal report from a reliable source.

The selection of documentaries on Greece is much wider and only a small sample has been mentioned here. It is usually possible to preview documentary or educational films.

The Teaching Aids Department at the Toronto Board of Education has a number of catalogues and these can, of course, be obtained directly from the film company concerned. Rental fees vary enormously and depend on a number of factors, such as the size of the audience and purpose for which the film is being shown: fees range from $5.00 a day for a short film to $50.00 a day for a full-length feature movie. Purchase prices vary roughly according to the length of the film; for instance, in the case of Greece: The Immortal Land, 40 minutes, the purchase price is $420.00, rental charge is $12.50; for Aged Land, 26 minutes, the purchase price is $245.00, rental charge is $7.50 for a showing.

Films

Feature Films

I — Twentieth Century-Fox Corporation Limited, 110 Bond Street, Toronto 200, Ontario.

Zorba the Greek,* — 140 minutes, an outstanding film based on the book by Nikos Kazantzakis. Highly recommended.

II — United Artists Corporation, 387 Bloor Street, East, Toronto 285, Ontario.

(1) Never on Sunday — 91 minutes, starring Melina Mercouri and directed by Jules Dassin.

(2) Electra — 110 minutes, directed by Michael Cacoyannis and starring Irene Papas.

(3) Phaedra — 115 minutes, starring Melina Mercouri and Anthony Perkins.

Both Electra and Phaedra are based on classical legendary themes.

III — Janus Film Library (Canada) Limited, 224 Davenport Road, Toronto 180, Ontario.

The Private Right — 82 minutes, set in the pre-independence period in Cyprus during the British occupations and EOKA guerilla warfare.

Documentaries

IV — Educational Film Distributors, 191 Eglinton Avenue, East, Toronto 315, Ontario.

(1) Greece: The Immortal Land* — 40 minutes, presents an absorbing picture of Greece, past and present. Commentary is excellent, and includes Sir John Gielgud speaking modern verse written by George Seferis, Greece's greatest living poet.

(2) Aged Land — 26 minutes, contrasts Ancient Greece with life in Greece today.

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* This film was selected for showing at the Board of Education's Film Festival in May, 1969.

V — McGraw-Hill Company of Canada Limited, 330 Progress Avenue, Scarborough 707, Ontario.

Greece: So Rich, So Poor — 20 minutes, another film which contrasts the richness of classical heritage and traditions with the poverty of natural resources and present-day standard of living in Greece.

VI — Olympic Airways Limited, 74 Victoria Street, Toronto 200, Ontario.

The Greek Islands — 20 to 25 minutes, no viewing or rental charge.

VII — Teaching Aids Department, Toronto Board of Education, 155 College Street, Toronto 130, Ontario.

(1) Greek Children — 16 minutes, describes the daily life of two children in a fishing village in the south of Greece. It is intended for primary grades but is also good for older age groups. The film is a companion to a filmstrip of the same title available from Encyclopaedia Britannica, and included in the Multi-Media Package.

(2) The Greeks of Danforth — 30 minutes, a film made by a member of Teaching Aids about the Greek population in Toronto.

There is no rental charge for films obtained from Teaching Aids.

VIII — Social Work Department for New Canadians, Toronto Board of Education, 155 College Street, Toronto 130, Ontario.

First Step in Learning [in a Greek rural school] — 25 minutes, the film is owned by the above department, and any enquires should be made to the department.

SOURCES OF AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS
IN THE MULTI-MEDIA PACKAGE ON GREECE

Filmstrips

Greek Children was obtained from the Encyclopaedia Britannica Publications, 151 Bloor Street, West, Toronto 181, Ontario.

Greece: Land of Myth and Greece: Modern Greece were obtained from Carman Educational Associates Ltd., Pine Grove, Ontario.

Prints

The photographs and postcards were obtained from the Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto 181, Ontario.

Tape

The music for the tape was recorded from Greek records borrowed from Mary Karagianni of the Attendance Department at the Toronto Board of Education. The script consists of selections from various books on Greece reviewed in the critical bibliography.